

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 are rejected. Claim 5 is objected to but would be allowable if placed in independent form. With this Amendment, Applicants have added new claim 6 which, as the Examiner will note, is claim 5 rewritten into independent form.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Seong-jin et al (6,356,691). The present invention concerns an improvement over a prior art design, as illustrated in Fig. 6, where a source of light 101 inputs light to a light groove plate 102 having opposed major surfaces. A first major surface is flat and adapted to output light from the plate. The second major surface has prism grooves and is coated with a reflective film 103.

The improvement to the prior art design as incorporated into the first embodiment involves the application of a wavelength converting material 14 on the reflective film (claim 1), as illustrated in Fig. 1. In another embodiment, the reflective film is made up of a synthetic resin that includes a light storage material 15 (Claim 2), as also illustrated in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 illustrates a light guide plate made of a transparent material in which a light storage material is blended (claim 3). In yet another embodiment, a light storage film is formed on the surface of the light guide plate, which may be the face side and/or reverse side, as explained at page 12. Finally, the concentration of light storage material may be varied within the light guide plate, as explained with regard to the embodiment of Fig. 5.

Seong-jin

The Examiner asserts that Seong-jin anticipates the invention on the basis of its teaching of a light source 40, waveguide 36 and reflection film 24. The Examiner asserts that the reflective film 24 comprises a light storage material 20.

The Examiner's understanding of the teachings of Seong-jin et al appear to be erroneous and misapplied to the present invention. First, Seong-jin is concerned with an optical waveguide display having an embedded light source. The overall electroluminescence light source unit 46

is illustrated in Fig. 3 and includes a plurality of electroluminescence light sources 40 for generating light in response to an electric field. Each light source 40 is coupled to a waveguide display unit 42, which comprises alternate arrangements of optical waveguides 36 and barriers 44.

An illustration of a combined light source and waveguide combination is provided in Fig. 2. The light source 40 includes phosphor layers 20 for generating light, dielectric layers 22 on and under the phosphor layers 20 and electroluminescence electrodes 24 on and under the dielectric layers 22. The electroluminescence electrodes are formed of a reflective material which reflects light (col. 3, lines 42-49).

Clearly, elements 20, which the Examiner refers to as a light storage material, and the electrodes 24, which the Examiner refers to as the reflective surface, are part of the light source 40 and not any light guide plate. The phosphor layers 20 serve to generate the light and are not separate light storage components. Further, the reflective layer (electrode) 24 is part of the light source and not the waveguide 36, that the Examiner equates to a light guide plate.

The Examiner asserts that the waveguide 36 in Fig. 2 is a light guide plate. If this is the basis for the Examiner's conclusions, the claims clearly are distinguishable. First, the waveguide 36 clearly has no reflection film "disposed on the other opposed side of said light guide plate", as set forth in all of the claims. Second, the waveguide 36 does not have any wavelength converting material applied on a reflective film (which is on the waveguide), as set forth in claim 1. Third, there is no reflective film on the waveguide that comprises a storage material, as set forth in claim 2. Fourth, the waveguide is not made of a transparent material in which a light storage material is blended, as set forth in claim 3. Fifth, the waveguide does not have a light storage film formed on a surface thereof, as set forth in claim 4.

Clearly, the structures are inherently different. The Examiner is merely attempting to interpret portions of a unrelated structure to the claimed language. However, the interpretation must fail for the reasons already given.

Nonetheless, *solely* to advance prosecution for certain embodiments of the invention at this time, Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the light guide plate is formed with

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No. 09/937,664

convexes and concaves having different densities or sizes depending upon the distance from the light source on one side thereof. As shown in the drawings (as well as the Seong-jin specification being completely silent with respect to this feature), and for the reasons discussed above, the waveguide 36 of Seong-jin clearly lacks this feature.

As such, Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the prior art and requests that the application be passed to issue as soon as possible.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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